

CLAIMS

1. A method of expanding the functional capabilities of portable electronic host devices with user-friendly modes, wherein a host device has a quick-connect functional expansion module associated therewith, comprising:

5 at each installation of a given module, the module and the host device recognizing each other;

on first installation of the given module in the host device, performing a series of checking operations automatically;

the user of the host device selecting to activate the available expansion; and

10 upon a given application being selected, storing the configuration and functions required for each application.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of performing the series of checking operations comprises:

15 listing the applications installed in the host device;

checking said expansion for compatibility with each application;

searching out the required modes to implement the expansion, for each application or the first time that an application is called to work; and

20 constructing a "vocabulary" of correspondence between the minimum of functions afforded by the expansion module and the minimum of functions demanded by the application in the host device.

3. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

25 once a given application is selected, finding the components of the "vocabulary of functions" from the sets that pertain to the other applications involved in the

expansion made possible by the supplementary module;

optionally requesting training or verifying the vocabulary entered;

warning the user of the availability of the expansion; and

activating the expansion on request by the user.

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4. A method according to Claim 1, characterized in that said storing step comprises storing the configuration, the "vocabularies of functions" for every application, and the current state of each activated application.

5. A system, comprising:

10 a portable electronic host device with expanded function capability; and

a quick-connect function-expanding module, comprising:

a host device loading and connecting program;

an expansion module control program; and

15 an API (Application Programming Interface) for the module to dialog with the operating system of the host device;

wherein the host device includes tables of correspondence between the applications and the commands of the installed module and an operating system path for detaining the functions to be expanded.